



STATE OF VERMONT
VERMONT STATE SENATE
SENATE ETHICS PANEL

MEMORANDUM

To: Vermont State Senate
From: Senate Ethics Panel
Date: December 29, 2025
Subject: 2025 Interim Senate Ethics Panel Report

Senate Rule 102(d) provides:

(d) At the end of each biennium, the Ethics Panel shall report to the Senate the number of complaints filed and the disposition of those complaints.

The Panel provides this interim report.

Pursuant to Senate Rule 102(d), the Senate Ethics Panel reports that it received:

1. Two reports held over from the 2023-2024 Session. These reports were referred from the Ethics Commission on October 20, 2024 and were kept open by the 2023-2024 Ethics Panel for possible further consideration by the Ethics Panel of the 2025-2026 Biennium – see the 2023-2024 Senate Ethics Panel Report.
2. Seven new reports were received: six filed directly with the Panel and one was simultaneously filed with the State Ethics Commission

Two reports are being held open by the Panel for further consideration in 2026.

Seven reports were dismissed and closed by the Panel after preliminary review pursuant to Rule 3 determined that probable cause did not exist for ethical violations pertaining to the Vermont Constitution or Senate Rules. Summaries of dispositions are as follow:

1. 2025-01 and 2025-02

A report was filed against a Senator alleging the Senator personally financially benefited from contributions from members of the public, where the contributions from members of the public were to be used for legal fees for a lawsuit filed by a Senator in the Senator's capacity as a Senator. The Panel found probable cause did not exist for an ethical violation as the funds went directly into an account set aside

for this purpose, and the account had no money remaining after the resolution of the case necessitating distribution. The report was dismissed.

2. 2025-02 – See above.

3. 2025-03

A report was filed against a Senator alleging the Senator violated unwritten Senate rules of decorum. The report was dismissed.

4. 2025-04

A report was filed against a Senator alleging the Senator committed an ethical violation for the Senator's participation in crafting legislation which was in the same subject area as the Senator's outside employment. The Panel found probable cause did not exist for an ethical violation, as the Senator was performing core legislative functions, and the legislation in question did not individually affect the Senator. The report was dismissed.

5. 2025-05

A report was filed against a Senator alleging the Senator committed an ethical violation for the Senator's participation in crafting legislation which was in the same subject area as the Senator's outside former employment. The Panel found probable cause did not exist for an ethical violation, as the Senator was performing core legislative functions, and the legislation in question did not individually affect the Senator. The report was dismissed.

6. 2025-06

A report was filed regarding the appointment of a Senator to a committee which the Senator was alleged to have an ethical conflict. The Panel found probable cause did not exist for an ethical violation as the Senator serving on the committee had no ethical conflict, and the appointment to, and participation on a committee is a core legislative function. The report was dismissed.

7. 2025-07

A report was filed against a Senator alleging the Senator did not allow for an individual to testify verbally at a committee meeting, which was being held pursuant to statute. The Panel found probable cause did not exist for an ethical violation as a statute cannot control the proceedings of the General Assembly or its Committees, and the statute required the Executive Agency to hold the public hearing rather than the committees of the General Assembly. The report was dismissed.